



NGC News

NGC Launches Auction Central - a Valuable Auction Research Tool

Bring expert insight to every purchase and sale. This powerful tool helps you research prices realized and find upcoming auctions for NGC-certified US coins, all in one place.

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NGC Registry Awards 2011

*Every year, NGC awards the top Competitive Sets and Custom Sets in the NGC Registry. To qualify, your sets must be registered by 5 p.m. ET on December 2, 2011. **Registration closed. Winners will be announced January 6, 2012.***

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NGC-certified Chinese Rarity Tops \$1 Million Mark in Hong Kong Auction

Sale sets a new world-record price for a modern Chinese-certified coin.

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NGC Is Hiring World Coin Specialists

NGC is looking for full-time World coin specialists to join our team.

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Chaos and Coinage: Post-Reform Bronze Issues of the Byzantine Empire

This month, NGC Ancients examines the coinage reforms of the Byzantine emperor Anastasius I (A.D. 491-518).

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Counterfeit Detection: 1870-CC Quarter

The 1870-CC is the key to the Seated Liberty quarter series. Read about the counterfeit that was submitted and how our experts recognized it.

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USA Coin Album: Cleaned Copper May Be Challenging to Detect

This month Dave discusses the difficulty of detecting cleaned copper and bronze coins.

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NumisMedia Market Report: Collectors Rule the Market

In the past month, gold had moved over \$1,900 an ounce, only to fall back to under \$1,600 at one point on September 26. It has settled around the \$1,620 area; nonetheless it is anything but settling.

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From the NGC Archives: 1837 Capped Bust Dime

The United States Mint at Philadelphia first utilized steam power to drive its coin presses in 1836, and coins made after that date benefited from the more efficient squeezing action of such presses, as opposed to the quick bang of the old screw press.

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World Coins: The Coinage of the White Rajahs of Sarawak: Part 1 Rajah James Brooke

The story of Sarawak goes back thousands of years, but the tradition of its state coinage started with James Brooke, a white Englishman born in India.

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2011 America the Beautiful 5 oz. Silver Uncirculated Coin™ - Gettysburg National Military Park

The US Mint announces that the 2011 America the Beautiful 5 oz. Silver Uncirculated Gettysburg Quarter goes on sale September 22, 2011.

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NGC Launches Auction Central - a Valuable Auction Research Tool

Posted on 10/3/2011

Bring expert insight to every purchase and sale. This powerful tool helps you research prices realized and find upcoming auctions for NGC-certified US coins, all in one place.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) has released [NGC Auction Central](#) – a new resource that maintains auction data for NGC–certified US coins from prominent auction houses including Heritage, Stack’s Bowers, Teletrade, David Lawrence Rare Coins and Great Collections. With this exciting new feature, both upcoming auctions and prices realized information are available and advanced filters allow users to sort the auction data by attributes such as grade, price, date and auction house.



[Click to watch overview video >](#)

Other features of [NGC Auction Central](#) include volume charts that are adjustable by time for all series and for individual coins, as well as some basic performance history, such as average grade and price for each coin.

Thumbnail images will also be provided for coins when they are available. Searches for auction data may be conducted as part of the new NGC Coin Explorer or through this separate, stand-alone feature. New coins and updated prices realized will be posted as soon as an auction goes live or ends.

Date Range: To Leave the fields empty to search all. Grade Range: To

Auction House: ☐ Heritage Auctions ☐ David Lawrence Rare Coins ☐ Teletrade Designation: ☐ (Name) ☐ (PC) ☐ (Only) ☐ (Only)

11 results found

Images	Date	Grade	Auction House	Sale / Lot
	10/16/2011	MS 66	Heritage Auctions	2011 October 12-18 US Coin Signature Auction, #1140, Pittsburg, Missouri, 11:00am-12:00pm
	10/16/2011	MS 66	Heritage Auctions	2011 October 12-18 US Coin Signature Auction, #1140, Pittsburg, Missouri, 11:00am-12:00pm
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Free Access Includes

Upcoming Auctions

- See what venues are selling the particular coin you might want to upgrade or just need to complete a set.

Series Overviews

- Gain 20 years of volume data from top auction houses.
- View top–5 coins by volume, gauge liquidity over time and study the series' top–5 prices realized.
- Consider volume vs. time in helpful charts and gauge the strength of the coin market.

Top–10 Performers

- Compare your series against others by viewing lists of the top–10 coins per series.

Paid Access Includes

Individual Prices Realized

- Price coins more accurately with auction prices realized.
- View auction volume over time for a specific coin and filter by details such as price, auction house and grade.

“A coin auction feature, including complete listings and prices realized, was an aspect of our website that we were intent on improving,” said NGC CEO Steve Eichenbaum. “With the addition of this feature there is no need for a collector or dealer to go anywhere else. We have all the information they could be looking for in one place.”

The new [NGC Auction Central](#) is the latest addition to our online suite of research tools including [NGC Coin Explorer](#), the [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#) and [NGC World Coin Price Guide](#) supplying everything the numismatic community needs in one place, solidifying the NGC website as the number one resource for research tools.

Membership starts at just \$39/year. [Join today!](#)

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NGC Registry Awards 2011

Posted on 9/22/2011

*Every year, NGC awards the top Competitive Sets and Custom Sets in the NGC Registry. To qualify, your sets must be registered by 5 p.m. ET on December 2, 2011. **Registration closed. Winners will be announced January 6, 2012.***

As in past years, the winners will include world-class collections and incredible exhibitions. Make sure yours are among them, and see if your collection has what it takes! This year, awards are being presented in the following categories:

Competitive Set Awards

Awards will be presented in the following four categories:

- The FIVE Best CLASSIC Sets: 1792-1964
- The FIVE Best MODERN Sets: 1950 to date (including Jefferson Nickels and Roosevelt Dimes)
- The FIVE Best PRESENTED Sets: Sets with the best descriptive text and coin images
- The THREE Best WORLD Sets

Custom Set Awards

Awards will be presented in the following four categories:

- The Best Overall Custom Set
- The Best World Custom Set
- The Most Creative Custom Set
- The Most Informative Custom Set

Take the honors in one of these categories, and you'll receive a personalized plaque, an icon of recognition next to your set's registry listing and up to five (5) Deluxe PHOTO PROOFS® of NGC coins from your winning set.

To participate, just enter your set online in the [NGC Registry](#). Sets must be at least 50% complete to be eligible for the award categories above.

Collectors Journal Awards

Additionally, we will award three outstanding Collectors Journal authors. We will consider an author's complete collection of journal entries in determining the winners. Journals entries will be judged on writing talent, creativity, enthusiasm, numismatic knowledge and, most importantly, the sharing of a personal sense of the collecting journey. The winning authors will receive a personalized plaque and an icon of recognition on their homepages.

Also, collectors with the #1 set in each category will receive an icon of recognition by his / her set in the Registry and a certificate of achievement.

The deadline for set registration and journal entries is 5 p.m. ET on December 2, 2011.

Winners will be announced on January 6, 2012.

[Click to view previous year's award winners.](#)

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NGC Grading US Coins On-site at Whitman Expo

Posted on 10/24/2011

NGC will offer on-site grading, including our Silver Dollar Tier, for Morgan and Peace Dollars. All coins submitted for on-site grading will be evaluated for Plus Designation at time of grading.

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins* at the [Whitman Coin Expo](#), in Baltimore, MD on **Thursday, November 17, 2011 only**. NGC will be at tables 1953-1956. Please check with NGC Customer Service for submission cut-off times.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

NGC will be offering [NGC Details Grading](#) for coins that exhibit detrimental surface conditions. This service is provided automatically and at no additional charge for all on-site grading submissions. Submitters can request to opt out of this service if they prefer to have such coins returned ungraded.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the [Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder](#).

On-Site Services include :

Silver Dollar Tier	\$30 per coin
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Morgan and Peace Dollars valued at \$500 and under (5-coin minimum).
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<i>Coins must be in flips.</i>

Gold Special	\$50 per coin
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Gold coins valued at \$3,000 and under (5-coin minimum).
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Value WalkThrough	\$65 per coin
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Coins valued at \$1,500 and under.

WalkThrough	\$100 per coin
Coins valued from \$1,501 to \$100,000.	
Expedite WalkThrough	\$150 per coin
Guaranteed four-hour turnaround, coins valued at \$100,000 and under. <i>Coins are returned within four hours or regular show pricing applies.</i>	
High-Value WalkThrough	\$200 per coin
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued from \$100,001 to \$500,000.	
Unlimited Value WalkThrough	\$500 per coin
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued above \$500,000.	
Show ReHolder	\$10 per coin
A coin in a scratched, chipped or older-generation NGC holder is placed in a new Scratch-Resistant EdgeView Holder.	
NCS CrossOver	\$10 per coin
A coin in an NCS holder is NGC Details Graded .	

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Most coins submitted for on-site grading are returned within 24 to 48 hours, except for expedited services, which are completed within four hours.

NGC Show Representatives will also be accepting submissions for all service levels to be sent to our office in Sarasota, Fla. These include World services, Ancient Coin Services, Early Bird, Economy, Bulk, Special Designations, PHOTO PROOF® and more!

Special Note: Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for on-site grading or regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series, 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, Fla., by the submitter.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

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United States

NGC Recognizes Two Varieties of Proof South Africa 2008 Mandela 5 Rand

Posted on 10/11/2011

Two varieties of the South Africa Proof 2008 Mandela 5 Rand are recognized by NGC.

NGC now recognizes two distinct varieties of the popular proof 2008 Mandela 5 Rand, struck to commemorate the 90th birthday of the former South African president. One variety shows RAND frosted, while the other has RAND mirrored. This attribution will be made on all proof 2008 Mandela 5 Rand coins automatically at no additional charge and will appear on the label as either "RAND" FROSTED or "RAND" MIRRORING.



Mandela 2008 5 Rand "RAND" Frosted



Mandela 2008 5 Rand "RAND" Mirrored

The South Africa Mandela issues are among the most widely collected World coins. NGC has certified more than 700 proofs from a reported mintage of just 5,000 pieces. Over 115,000 examples of the Mint State issues have been graded by NGC, and a small number of these have been certified with laser-frosted devices.

It is not clear how many of the proof 2008 Mandela 5 Rands were struck with RAND frosted versus mirrored. Population figures for both varieties will appear in the NGC Census on Monday, October 17, at 9:00 am EST.

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NGC-certified Chinese Rarity Tops \$1 Million Mark in Hong Kong Auction

Posted on 9/23/2011

Sale sets a new world-record price for a modern Chinese-certified coin.

At Champion's Hong Kong Auction 15, on August 28, 2011, a 1992 China Compass 2000 Yuan 1 Kg Gold graded NGC PF 69 Ultra Cameo realized US \$1,298,000. **This sale set a new world record price for a modern kilogram gold Chinese certified coin.**

The 2000 Yuan coin is part of a series celebrating Chinese inventions and discoveries. The obverse features a depiction of a compass and the Great Wall of China is on the reverse. Produced by the Shenyang Mint, this extreme rarity is numbered 06 from a maximum of 10 pieces struck. According to Michael Chou, CEO of iAsure, it may be the rarest of all authorized coinage of China.

This 5 kilogram rarity became the third Chinese coin to cross the \$1 million mark and the second highest price for a modern Chinese coin within the last five months. The 2000 Yuan coin ranks as the second most expensive modern Chinese coin sold at auction.



According to Chou, the previous record holder for a 1 kilogram coin, a 1994 Year of the Unicorn, realized approximately US \$602,326 in Champion’s June auction.

The overall record price for a modern Chinese coin was established earlier this year by a Proof 1991 10 kilogram .999 fine gold 10000 Yuan coin that realized US \$1,567,190.

The 186-lot August auction, Champion’s second focused on modern Chinese material, realized US \$5,170,382. The high-visibility rarities in the Champion Hong Kong Auction’s sale drew a lot of wealthy bidders to the auction.

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United States

NGC Is Hiring World Coin Specialists

Posted on 7/12/2011

NGC is looking for full-time World coin specialists to join our team.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation, is looking for professional, knowledgeable, full-time World coin specialists to join our team. We are specifically looking for experts in modern and vintage world coins. Our graders work together, combining their expertise with proven processes to accurately evaluate, authenticate and grade submitted coins.

Located in Sarasota, FL, we offer excellent benefits, including medical, vacation and 401(k). Salary commensurate with experience.

Submit your resumé in confidence to:

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 United States 

Chaos and Coinage: Post-Reform Bronze Issues of the Byzantine Empire

Posted on 10/11/2011

This month, NGC Ancients examines the coinage reforms of the Byzantine emperor Anastasius I (A.D. 491-518).

By the late 5th century A.D., what remained of the Roman Empire was in disarray. When the European territories of the empire fell to German invaders in A.D. 476, the Eastern portion of the empire was preserved, and came to be known as the “Byzantine Empire.” Since the Byzantine world was constantly beset by invasion, religious turmoil, and political infighting, the term “Byzantine” retains its unique meaning to this day.

Considering the chaos and general decline that characterized this society, it is hardly surprising that the coinage system deteriorated as well, and was subject to constant reform. Previous attempts at monetary reform under the Roman Empire had rarely succeeded and were usually short-lived.

Gold coinage of the late Roman and early Byzantine world – comprised of three main denominations, the solidus, semissis, and tremissis – was remarkably stable. The same cannot be said of bronze and silver coinage of the late 5th century, which was unstable, and subject to adjustments in weight and purity.

When Anastasius I (491-518) ascended to the Byzantine throne in the spring of 491, he inherited a host of problems that had gone unchecked for decades. By 498, he was finally able to address some of the more pressing problems, including the bronze coinage, the declining standard of which had not helped to contain inflation. To this end, Anastasius introduced an entirely new



series of bronzes intended to supplant the confused system employed at the time.

The basic economic unit of his new system of copper coinage was the nummus. Bronzes were denominated at 40 nummi (“follis”), 20 nummi (“half-follis”), 10 nummi (“decanummius”), and 5 nummi (“pentanummius”). For the first time, Greek letters appeared on the reverse to denote the value of each piece – a clear reflection of the prominence of Greek culture in the territories of the Byzantine Empire.



A large “M” (the Greek letter Mu) signified a value of 40 nummi. Similarly, a “K” translated to 20 nummi, an “I” equated to 10 nummi, and an “Ε” was used to denote the 5 nummi piece. The pieces shown here are fairly representative of the series as a whole: the follis and pentanummius were struck under Maurice Tiberius (582-602), and the half-follis and decanummius under Justinian I (527-565). For about the next three centuries, these basic reverse types would remain in effect, with some exceptions, including several 7th century rulers who used Latin letters to denote value instead.



The largest of these coins, the follis, was struck on a broad, thin planchet. These coins are popular with collectors because of their large size and bold, striking design. This piece, an issue of Anastasius I, is an excellent example of an early-style follis. It features on the obverse a bust of the emperor, and on the reverse the value, denoted by the large M. The monogram and letters in the exergue record that it was struck at the first workshop (officina) of the Constantinople mint.

It is interesting to note that after Anastasius, the profile bust largely disappears from the series. The Byzantine emperor Justinian I was responsible for initiating

this trend, as he introduced the facing portrait to Byzantine copper coinage. He also introduced a system of dating these coins based upon the year of his reign. This follis, the first dated issue, was struck during the twelfth year of his reign, which corresponds to 538-539.



Although Justinian I was the first emperor to be portrayed facing on copper Byzantine coins, some continued to be struck with his profile portrait, as evidenced by this piece. Some of the lowest-denomination Byzantine coins did not feature the facing bust until the seventh century,

long after it was introduced.

In addition to his reform of the coinage itself, Anastasius enlarged the mint network. When he assumed the throne in 491, the only two Byzantine mints in operation were Constantinople and Thessalonica. In 498, the Nicomedia mint began to issue copper coinage, and Antioch was also reopened, so that by the emperor's death in 518 production capacity had essentially been doubled.

Justinian built upon what Anastasius had begun: under his rule, as many as fifteen mints were in operation at certain times – truly the pinnacle of Byzantine coin production. Unfortunately, this golden age did not last long; by the end of the seventh century only two mints (Constantinople and Syracuse) remained in service. This cycle of fleeting prosperity and economic crisis was representative of the history of the Byzantine Empire as a whole.

Byzantine copper coinage is a complex and challenging series. There are still many anomalies, inconsistencies, and outright mysteries to be resolved. Dating, and even basic ruler attribution, is often difficult (or impossible) when these coins are poorly preserved. However, many attractive pieces can be acquired for surprisingly low prices, allowing for a representative set of post-reform Byzantine bronzes to be assembled on a modest budget.

Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group.

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Counterfeit Detection: 1870-CC Quarter

Posted on 10/11/2011

The 1870-CC is the key to the Seated Liberty quarter series. Read about the counterfeit that was submitted and how our experts recognized it.



Counterfeit 1870-CC Quarter
Click images to enlarge.

One of the most interesting fakes that NGC has received in the past year was an 1870-CC quarter. The 1870-CC is the key to the Seated Liberty quarter series with a mintage of just 8,340 pieces and a very low survival rate. Fewer than 100 examples are believed to exist. The coin submitted to NGC had the overall impression of a Mint State coin and would easily have sold for a six figure sum had it been genuine.

This counterfeit was expertly produced and could have easily fooled even the most experienced coin dealers. NGC employs some of the world's foremost authorities on counterfeit detection and our graders noticed that the mintmark style of this piece did not match other



1870-CC quarters. All 1870-CC quarters were struck from the same pair of dies, and on the reverse the CC mintmark is small and the letters are widely spaced. The top serif of the first C points to the lower left end of the last arrow fletching.

On this spurious 1870-CC, the mintmark is tall, the letters are close together, and it is well centered below the eagle. Not only is the mintmark wrong, but there are also prominent clash marks on the reverse unlike anything seen on other 1870-CC quarters. Clearly this is not the right reverse. The counterfeiter must not have had access to images of a genuine 1870-CC quarter and thus modeled the reverse after a different year with a different mintmark style.



Clash Marks
Click images to enlarge.

Few people have seen enough 1870-CC quarters to recognize that the mintmark was wrong on this specimen. NGC has graded a genuine 1870-CC quarter on 41 occasions, and NGC graders have probably seen more examples than virtually anyone in numismatics. This experience led NGC to determine that this rare and valuable coin was actually an expertly manufactured fake.



Die Cracks
Click images to enlarge.

Be sure to check out NGC’s Counterfeit Detection column published monthly in the American Numismatic Association’s The Numismatist.

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United States

USA Coin Album: Cleaned Copper May Be Challenging to Detect

Posted on 10/11/2011

This month Dave discusses the difficulty of detecting cleaned copper and bronze coins.

My recent column on the mistaken perception held by many that old coin albums will still prompt attractive toning on coins today elicited a great deal of comment from both collectors and dealers. It seems that everyone has an opinion on the matter, and it also suggested another topic of importance with regard to the aesthetic value of coins. This is the subject of cleaned coins, or, more specifically, cleaned copper and bronze coins. These can be extremely difficult to detect, and many a person has been startled to receive a coin back from one of the grading services with the notations "Improperly Cleaned" or "Altered Color."



The cleaning of copper coins to make them appear mint red seems to have begun as soon as collectors began saving the old large cents and half cents. The cents in particular became quite popular after their discontinuance in 1857, and many a new collector was created at that time. All new hobbyists take some time to develop their taste, and the more perceptive will eventually come to value the appearance of an attractively toned copper or bronze coin. This is especially true when the coins tone to some color other than simply brown. Among my favorites are pieces toned to a vivid steel blue or emerald green. New collectors, however, tend to be disappointed in any unworn coin that does not look just like it did when made, and attempts to restore that appearance have been performed with varying levels of skill for generations.

Many of the large cents and half cents that exist unworn or just lightly worn have been cleaned at some point. The cleaned coins intended for more advanced collectors are usually found with some form of induced toning to mute the bright orange color that typically results. These can be very attractive coins, and in their early years the grading companies may have let a few slip through, though with experience they have since learned to spot such altered color.

More of a problem is the many thousands of small cents and two-cent pieces that have been improperly cleaned. The wholesale cleaning of such coins began during the 1930s and '40s, when the hobby grew in leaps and bounds. The introduction of coin boards and folders created many thousands of new collectors during those years, skewing the hobby population toward inexperienced and unsophisticated buyers. This trend only accelerated in the 1950s and '60s. Just as World War II was ending, a series of new chemical coin cleaning products for copper began to appear in hobby publications, and these were widely popular right up through the 1970s and into the early 1980s. It was not until the advent of certified and encapsulated grading in the mid-1980s that the downside of such treatments was revealed. Only then did distinctions begin to be made between original color and restored color, and it became evident just how few pre-1930 copper and bronze coins had survived unmolested.

Since that time many coins have been retoned in an effort to conceal evidence of cleaning, but huge numbers are still offered raw (uncertified) in the marketplace with full, blazing red color. To meet the continuing demand for mint red coins, it appears that new cleaning processes have been developed. These are so deceptive that only an expert can detect original from restored color, and both collectors and dealers may learn the truth only when submitting their coins for certification.

To show how challenging it is to discern modern methods of chemical cleaning I'll illustrate a coin from my own collection. About 20 years ago I found this lovely 1916 cent in a dealer's case and was drawn to it immediately. At that time the coin was blazing mint red, with what seemed to be very convincing color. Of most interest to me, however, was the fact that this cent displayed an amazingly sharp strike from new dies that had no signs of erosion. Indeed, it possessed the detail of a proof. The certification of Lincoln cents was not as common then as it is today, so the fact that this coin was raw did not set off any alarms. A price was agreed upon, and I quickly placed this gem in my type set. A few years later, however, the coin began to tone in a slightly unusual manner that I had not seen in coins known to have original color. I came to suspect that it had been dipped (chemically cleaned), and I would soon have my suspicions confirmed.

I teach a course on collecting USA type coins at the ANA’s Summer Seminar, along with co-instructor Frank Van Valen of Stack's Bowers. For ease of handling by our students, I try to get all of my type coins encapsulated. Since this Lincoln was still the sharpest one in my collection (being even more detailed than my matte proofs of 1910 and 1913), I had a dealer submit it to NGC with some other coins of his own, knowing full well the outcome. The graders indeed pegged it as having Altered Color. Nevertheless, it remains a great teaching tool, both in developing students’ appreciation for coins of early die state and as an example of very deceptive cleaning.

David W. Lange's column, “USA Coin Album,” appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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United States

NumisMedia Market Report: Collectors Rule the Market

Posted on 10/10/2011

In the past month, gold had moved over \$1,900 an ounce, only to fall back to under \$1,600 at one point on September 26. It has settled around the \$1,620 area; nonetheless it is anything but settling.

The market is very nervous and most investors are not sure what to do at this point. This would be a good time to focus on collectors and how they react during these times. Last month we pointed out how the two major auctions at the Chicago ANA sold thousands of coins at well over \$70 million. Rarities were attracting competitive buyers even though some of the coins sold for slight discounts to previous FMV levels. The important point here is that collectors are persistent in their quest for the best coins for their money.

Not only are early rarities in demand, but we have noted that Barber coins have surged lately. All grades from Fine up to and including MS67 have been trading in recent months. As active as all three series have been, Barber Halves appear to have the greatest demand. This series is without a major rarity in low grades, whereas the Barber Dime series has the 1894 S, which is virtually impossible to obtain, and the Barber Quarter series has the 1896 S, 1901 S, and 1913 S. This makes the Barber Half collection easier to complete in lower grades which is appealing to the completionist collectors. We all know that once a collector completes a set of coins, in all likelihood, they will begin to upgrade it. The Registry Set collectors of NGC and PCGS will gladly attest to this.

The following chart shows how the MS63, 64, and 65 Barber Sets have performed over the last 4 ½ years. We used the March 2007 FMV and this month's October FMV.

Barber Dimes FMV March 2007 FMV October 2011

MS63	\$525,185	\$713,868
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MS64	\$728,930	\$1,285,606
MS65	\$1,323,730	\$1,749,090

Barber Quarters	FMV March 2007	FMV October 2011
MS63	\$124,090	\$143,971
MS64	\$184,370	\$201,800
MS65	\$380,260	\$375,120

Barber Halves	FMV March 2007	FMV October 2011
MS63	\$118,780	\$154,630
MS64	\$219,330	\$257,160
MS65	\$495,550	\$523,250

All but one of the above examples has increased substantially. The MS65 set of Barber Quarters fell \$5,140 over this period. The best performance was the MS64 Barber Dimes which increased by 71%. Of course, the increased FMV for the 1894 S was the main reason for this rise. Barber Halves all increased in the three selected grades and a more in depth look shows that every grade from Good through MS62 is higher by at least 16%. The Extra Fine to AU grades are especially popular and, if they have solid eye appeal, they will usually command premiums to the current FMV. This has been a winning series and according to current demand the future continues to look brilliant.

One of the most popular modern issue coins is the 2009 Ultra High Relief. When it was first issued by the Mint, its immediate popularity was recognized by nearly every coin dealer. When NGC and PCGS found that some of the coins had Prooflike surfaces, collectors were thrilled with the potential growth in value. For the first year or so, their value tended to follow the ups and downs of the price of Gold. However, the current demand has depleted the market of all excess supplies and dealers have been increasing their buy prices at a record pace. The first time we listed the FMV for the MS69 UHR was September 2009; it was \$1,720 with Gold at \$955. That was an 80% premium at the time. Today the MS69 has an FMV of \$3,060 and Gold is \$1,640. The premium today is 89% and, if the current demand is maintained, this premium will continue to increase. The initial FMV for the Prooflike coin in MS69 was \$2,060 in September 2009. Today it is listed at \$3,440, a healthy increase of \$1,380, or 67%.

While the metals continue to adjust as we write this article, The UHR’s remain very active at current FMV levels.

This article is a guest article written by:

The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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 United States 

From the NGC Archives: 1837 Capped Bust Dime

Posted on 10/11/2011

The United States Mint at Philadelphia first utilized steam power to drive its coin presses in 1836, and coins made after that date benefited from the more efficient squeezing action of such presses, as opposed to the quick bang of the old screw press.



1837 was the final year of coinage for William Kneass interpretation of the Capped Bust Dime. Some 359,500 pieces were struck, one of the lower figures for this type. High grade examples are decidedly rare. Sharply struck throughout, this beauty displays amazingly pristine surfaces. Much of its field area is brilliantly prooflike, though a few patches of frostiness are also evident. Pleasingly toned to light champagne gold, this splendid dime is superb both technically and aesthetically. For the variety enthusiast, a number of die cracks may be clearly seen.

Are you interested in Dimes? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read more.

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United States

World Coins: The Coinage of the White Rajahs of Sarawak: Part 1 Rajah James Brooke

Posted on 10/11/2011

The story of Sarawak goes back thousands of years, but the tradition of its state coinage started with James Brooke, a white Englishman born in India.

The coinage of Sarawak is highly prized and collected today by people all over the world. However, the average American may not have heard of it before, know where it is or of its rich history. The story of Sarawak goes back thousands of years, but the tradition of its state coinage started with James Brooke, a white Englishman born in India.

Sarawak, a state in current day Malaysia, is on the island of Borneo which is split between three countries: Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. North Borneo and Sarawak were important trade portals for Asia for hundreds if not thousands of years. The area was ripe with rebellions beginning in the 15th century against the Sultanate ruling authority. It wasn't until the 1800s that Sarawak was colonized by the west under the governorship of James Brooke.

James Brooke was born in 1803 in India to white English parents. With a limited English education, James returned to India from England at 16 years old. He enlisted in the Bengal Army of the British East India Company, which at the time controlled a vast amount of India. In 1824, the First Anglo-Burmese War began and James Brooke participated in the Assam campaign. James was wounded in 1825 and sent to England to recover. After an unsuccessful attempt to rejoin his unit in Madras, India in 1830, he returned to England. Brooke began an Asian trading business but was unsuccessful in his ventures.

In 1833, Brooke inherited £30,000 from his father, which he used to buy a schooner named The Royalist. His plan was to circumnavigate the world with an

expedition to the East Indies. Armed with six 6-pounder cannons and an abundance of small arms The Royalist was a formidable private warship.

Now an adventurer who commanded his own warship, Brooke reached Brunei (in North Borneo) in 1841 to find it in a major rebellion against Pengiran Mahkota in Sarawak. James Brooke assisted Rajah Muda Hashim, the son of Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin II, in suppression of the rebellion. Brooke was granted the title of Rajah of Sarawak, effectively making him governor and ruler of Sarawak. Rajah Brooke immediately established his rule over Sarawak by taking actions to reform the administrations, codifying laws and fighting piracy.

In 1847, Brooke returned to England a hero. He received the Freedom of the City of London and was appointed governor and commander-in-chief of Labuan. After a brief stay in England he returned to Sarawak to continue his rule. While Brooke faced significant threats from native warriors and pirates, he remained in power in Sarawak for the rest of his life. James Brooke was the founder of the “White Rajah” Dynasty of Sarawak and established a method of succession for those to follow. He died in 1868 and was buried in England.

Rajah James Brooke left a long and lasting legacy in Sarawak and Borneo including the coinage of Sarawak. While most coinage circulating in Sarawak originated in other countries, the first Sarawak coinage issued under Rajah James Brooke’s rule was the 1841-dated One Keping coin made by the Birmingham Mint. The coins feature a badger facing left, with J.B. (for James Brooke) under the badger and dated September 24, 1841, to commemorate the date Brooke was made Rajah. The reverse dies were recycled from dies used to make earlier Singapore Merchant tokens. While considered tokens by some, the coins circulated and today these pieces are very scarce and highly prized by collectors in any condition.



Sarawak 1841 One Keping
Click image to enlarge.

Following the British monarchy, in 1863 coins were made by the Birmingham Mint in ¼ cent, ½ cent and one cent denominations and featured the bust of Rajah Brooke and the inscription “J. Brooke Rajah” for use in Sarawak. These coins established the new monetary standard for Sarawak where 100 cents was the equivalent of one dollar. The mintages of the 1863 pieces are unknown but considered low with the survival rate even lower. While these were the final coins issued under Rajah Brooke, they set the precedent for the future coinage of Sarawak’s White Rajahs.



Sarawak 1865 One Cent
Click image to enlarge.

It is hard to believe that Sarawak's coinage all started with an Indian-Born Englishman who died a Rajah. Without Brooke, Sarawak’s history and its coins would have been very different.

Next month: Part Two

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2011 America the Beautiful 5 oz. Silver Uncirculated Coin™ - Gettysburg National Military Park

Posted on 10/11/2011

The US Mint announces that the 2011 America the Beautiful 5 oz. Silver Uncirculated Gettysburg Quarter goes on sale September 22, 2011.

[WASHINGTON] — The United States Mint today announced the release of the 2011 America the Beautiful Five Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coin - Gettysburg National Military Park (Pennsylvania) on September 22, at noon Eastern Time (ET). The coin is currently priced at \$279.95. As with all products sold by the United States Mint containing precious metals, pricing is subject to change.

The maximum mintage for each of the five 2011 coins is limited to 35,000 units. Orders will be limited to five coins per household for the first week of sales. At the end of one week, the United States Mint will re-evaluate this limit and either extend, adjust or remove it.

The America the Beautiful Five Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coins are collector versions of those issued through the America the Beautiful Silver Bullion Coin™ Program. The three-inch uncirculated coins feature the same designs that appear on the bullion coins and the corresponding circulating quarters issued through the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program.

The America the Beautiful Five Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coins are struck in .999 fine silver and display the "P" mint mark indicating production at the United States Mint at Philadelphia. To protect the uncirculated finish, each coin is enclosed in a capsule and an attractive presentation case. A Certificate of Authenticity is included with each coin.

The United States Mint will accept orders at <http://www.usmint.gov/catalog> and at 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468). Hearing- and speech-impaired customers with TTY equipment may order at 1-888-321-MINT (6468). A shipping and handling fee of \$4.95 will be added to all domestic orders.

The United States Mint, created by Congress in 1792, is the Nation's sole manufacturer of legal tender coinage and is responsible for producing circulating coinage for the Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. The United States Mint also produces proof, uncirculated and commemorative coins; Congressional Gold Medals; and silver, gold and platinum bullion coins.

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